

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING FOR A WATER QUALITY STUDY (TOTAL MAXIMUM
DAILY LOAD DEVELOPMENT)**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on a water quality study that is beginning in the Roanoke (Staunton) River watershed. The purpose of the study will be to identify sources of bacteria in the watershed and to determine the reductions in bacteria loadings needed to allow various streams in the watershed to meet water quality goals. The study will result in Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address multiple bacteria impairments on the Roanoke River and its tributaries.

The affected streams were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and Virginia's 2002 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters as impaired due to violations of Virginia's water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria. The streams are therefore not supporting the Primary Contact Recreation (swimmable) Designated Use. The impairments include: 39.16 miles of the Roanoke River, 2.7 miles of Turnip Creek, 14.21 miles of Cub Creek, and 2.88 miles of an unnamed tributary of Buffalo Creek. These impairments are located in Pittsylvania, Campbell, Halifax, and Charlotte Counties.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for each pollutant causing a water quality problem, or impairment, in streams contained in Virginia's 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters.

A first advisory committee meeting for the Roanoke River watershed TMDL has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 15 at 1:00pm in the Patrick Henry Memorial Library located at 204 Lynchburg Avenue in Brookneal, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the TMDL development process in the Roanoke River watershed and to share information on bacteria sources in the watershed. Anyone interested in attending this meeting should contact the regional TMDL coordinator, Kelly Wills (contact information provided below). Information from this meeting will be made available on the DEQ TMDL web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>.

A fact sheet on the water quality study and development of the Roanoke River watershed TMDLs is available upon request or can be viewed at the DEQ TMDL website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Kelly Wills. The public comment period will end on **October 15, 2004**. Written comments regarding the water quality study and TMDL development should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Kelly J. Wills, Department of Environmental Quality, 7705 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, Virginia, 24502, telephone (434) 582-5120 ext. 6042, fax (434) 582-5125, or e-mail kjwills@deq.virginia.gov.